



## **Freddy Sykes**

### **1894 – 1917**

Freddy was born in Ravensthorpe on 13<sup>th</sup> July 1894 and baptised on 17<sup>th</sup> August 1894 at St. Saviour's Church, Ravensthorpe. His father was George Henry Sykes, a Coal Miner (Hewer) born in Dewsbury in 1872 and died in 1920. His mother was Eliza (nee Clarkson) born in Ravensthorpe in 1872 and died in 1936. They were married on 17<sup>th</sup> June 1893 at St. Saviour's Church.

Their other children were; Florrie, born in 1896, Doris, born in 1898, Ethel, born in 1900, Maisie, born in 1904 and Matthew, born in 1906.

In 1901 they lived at Duke Street, Ravensthorpe, in 1911 at 11, Woodbine Street, Flatts, Dewsbury and later at 11, Back Granville Street, Flatts.

Freddy was a single man who was educated at St. Saviour's Day School and attended the Church. He worked as a Hurrier for his father at Crawshaw and Warburton's Colliery, this involved removing the coal from the tubs and returning it as soon as possible to his father to be filled up again, Colliers were paid by the number of tubs they emptied each shift.

He enlisted in December 1914 into the 2<sup>nd</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Battalion Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment) with the Service Number 240870 rising to the rank of Lance Corporal. He was sent to the Western Front in January 1917 and died of wounds in the 49<sup>th</sup> Casualty Clearing Station at Achiet-Le-Grand on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 1917, sustained during the Battle of Arras near Bullecourt at the beginning of the third Battle of the Scarpe. He is buried in Achiet-Le-Grand Communal Cemetery Extension, Pas-de-Calais, France. Freddy was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

His obituary in the Dewsbury Reporter on 12<sup>th</sup> May 1917 stated that; "*He wore a medal which he had gained as a first-class shot and he was also a master machine gunner*".

Achiet-le-Grand is a village 19 Kms south of Arras. The village was occupied by the 7<sup>th</sup> Bedford's on 17<sup>th</sup> March 1917, lost on 25<sup>th</sup> March 1918 after a defence by the 1<sup>st</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> Manchesters, and recaptured on 23<sup>rd</sup> August 1918. From April 1917 to March 1918, the village was occupied by the 45<sup>th</sup> and 49<sup>th</sup> Casualty Clearing Stations. Achiet station was an allied railhead. The communal cemetery and extension were used by Commonwealth medical units from April 1917 to March 1918. The extension was also used by the Germans to a small extent in March and April 1918, and again by Commonwealth troops in August 1918. After the Armistice 645 graves, mainly of 1916 and March and August 1918, were brought in from the battlefields around Achiet and from smaller burial grounds. The Extension contains 1,424 Commonwealth burials and commemorations of the First World War. 200 of the burials are unidentified but there are special memorials to eight casualties known or believed to be buried among them.

Freddy is commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Public Library and as *Fred Sykes* on the Ravensthorpe War Memorial in St. Saviour's Church.

In Memory of  
Lance Corporal  
**Freddy Sykes**

240870, 2nd/5th Bn., Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment) who died on 03 May 1917 Age 22

Son of Mrs. E. Sykes, of 11, Back Granville St., Dewsbury.

Remembered with Honour  
**Achiet-Le-Grand Communal Cemetery Extension**



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

